

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154986
ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN:MAJ
APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSEN
CU/NEA - MBERG
NEA/EGY - DNEWBERRY
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
CU/ARTS-PEWHEELER, CU-CACHAPMAN; WKHITCHCOCK
-----041636 021630Z /53
R 020316Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, LEADING CITIZENS OF SAN FRANCISCO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED FOR SOME TIME IN EFFORT TO HAVE RUN OF TUT EXHIBITION EXTENDED FOR SHOWING IN THAT CITY. DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT WHILE ADDITIONAL SITE FOR SHOW IS DESIRABLE FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW, USG CANNOT PRESS FOR EXTENSION BECAUSE FORMAL AGREEMENT CALLING FOR SHOWING AT SIX OTHER SITES SIGNED BY SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER AFTER LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS. FURTHERMORE, IF EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES WERE TO OFFER EXTENSION TO USG AS GENERAL PROPOSITION, QUESTION OF WHERE THAT SITE SHOULD BE WOULD PROBABLY BE OPEN TO NEGOTIATION ALSO, GIVEN LONG-TERM INTEREST OF SEVERAL OTHER CITIES.

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2. HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP SAN FRANCISCANS (OR ANYBODY ELSE) FROM APPEALING DIRECTLY TO EGYPTIANS. THIS SAN FRANCISCO HAS DONE, LARGELY THROUGH OFFICES OF STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE. SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM DIRECTOR IAN WHITE REPORTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE GOING WELL, ESPECIALLY AFTER OFFER OF 100,000 DOLS.

ADVANCE DONATION TO CAIRO MUSEUM WAS MADE BY SAN FRANCISCO BACKERS. HE NOW PLANS TO VISIT CAIRO TO PURSUE MATTER ABOUT JULY 22. WHITE HAS MADE NO REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE.

3. IF EGYPTIANS AGREE TO EXTENSION OF EXHIBIT TO SEVENTH SITE, FOLLOWING QUESTIONS LIKELY TO ARISE: HAVE EGYPTIANS SPECIFICALLY SAID EXTENSION IS SO THAT SHOW CAN GO TO SAN FRANCISCO? (IF NOT, WE WILL FACE STRONG CRITICISM FROM OTHER CLAIMANTS -- NOTABLY BOSTON AND UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA -- THAT THEY NOT GIVEN FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SIMILAR BID). IS AMENDMENT TO US-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT REQUIRED? HOW WILL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BE HANDLED? (METROPOLITAN HAS SAID IT DOES NOT WANT TO CONTINUE ITS MANAGERIAL ROLE BEYOND PRESENT SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF OVERTAXED RESOURCES -- BUT THIS QUESTION COMPLICATED BY METROPOLITAN'S ROLE IN MANUFACTURE OF REPRODUCTIONS).

4. PRECEDING POINTS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH WHITE. DEPARTMENT (CU/ARTS) WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT IF ANY, ON EGYPTIAN SIDE.

5. ABOVE IS IN REFERENCE TO CAIRO 10880. CHRISTOPHER

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